

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing trivalent organophosphorus compounds by condensing phosphorus compounds of the formula **i**

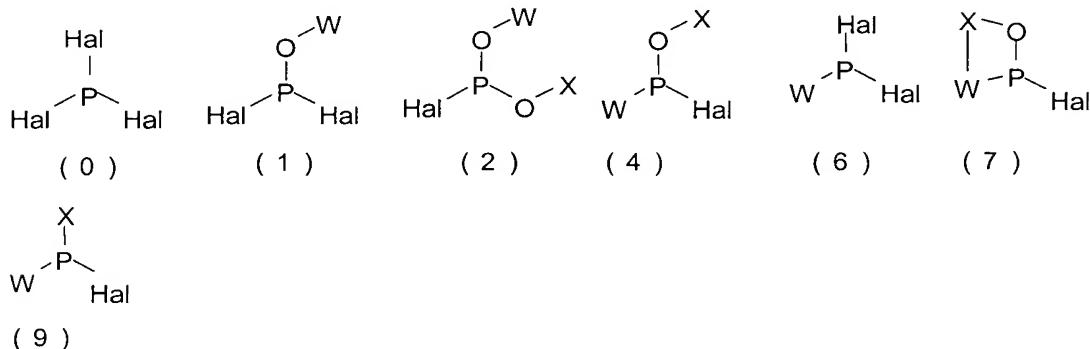


where Hal is a halide selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine and may be the same or different when a plurality of halides are present ($a > 1$), R is an organic radical bonded to the phosphorus via a carbon or oxygen atom, and, when $a < 2$, the R radicals present may be the same or different, and a is a number from 1 to 3,

with organic compounds that have at least one OH group,

the process comprising carrying out the condensation reaction in the presence of at least one basic ion exchange resin.

Claim 2 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the phosphorus compound of the formula **i** used is at least one compound selected from the compounds of the following formulae

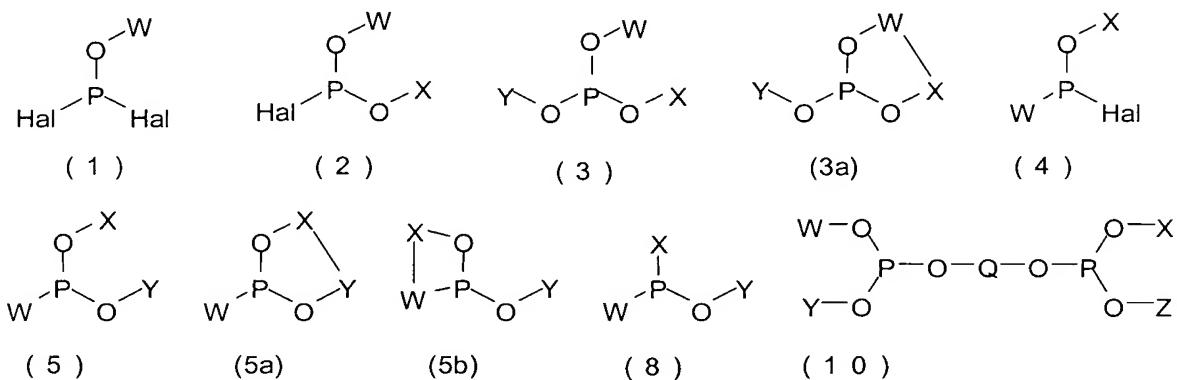


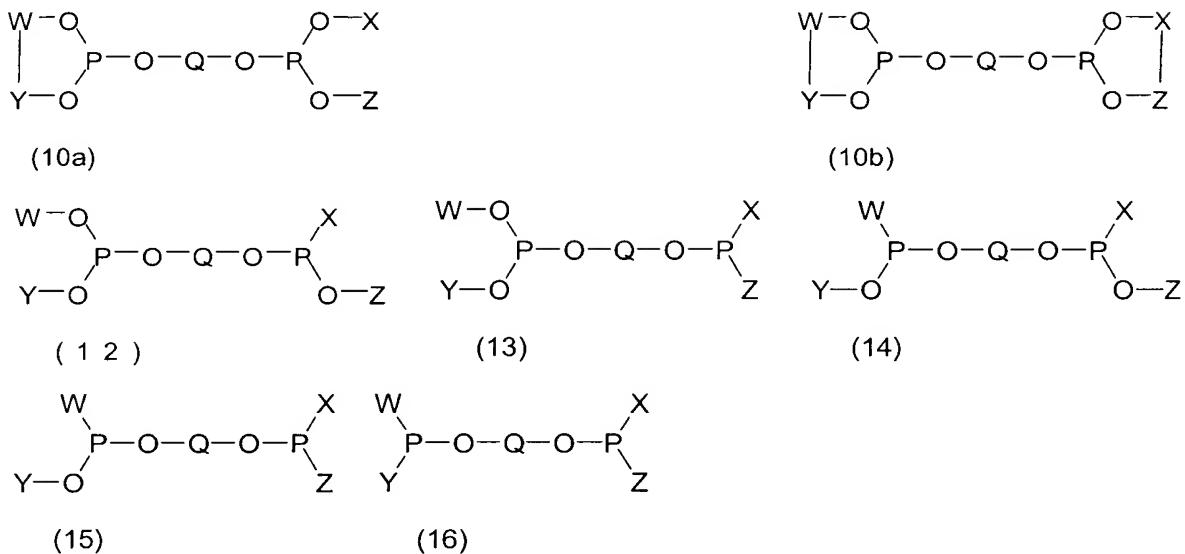
where W and X are substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic or aliphatic-aromatic

hydrocarbons having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, and W or X are the same or different or covalently joined together.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the compound used that has at least one hydroxyl group is at least one substituted or unsubstituted compound selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, 1-butanol, 2-butanol, t-butanol, 2-ethylhexanol, isononanol, isodecanol, isotridecanol, phenol, phenol derivatives, 1,4-dihydroxybenzene, 1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene, 1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-diol or 2,2'-binaphthyl-1,1'-diol, and the substituted compounds may have substituents selected from primary, secondary and tertiary alkyl groups, alicyclic groups, aromatic groups, $-N(R^5)_2$, $-NHR^5$, $-NH_2$, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $-CN$, $-C(O)-R^5$, $-C(O)H$ or $-C(O)O-R^5$, $-CF_3$, $-O-R^5$, $-C(O)N-R^5$, $-OC(O)-R^5$ and/or $-Si(R^5)_3$, where R^5 is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical, and, when a plurality of hydrocarbon radicals R^5 is present, they are the same or different.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the trivalent organophosphorus compound prepared is at least one compound selected from the compounds of the following formulae





where W, X, Y and Z are each substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic-aromatic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, and W, X, Y and Z are the same or different or covalently joined together, and where Q is an at least bivalent, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aliphatic-alicyclic, heterocyclic, aliphatic-heterocyclic, aromatic, aromatic-aromatic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical.

Claim 5 (Original): The process of claim 4, wherein the compounds of the formulae (1), (2), (3), (3a), (4), (5), (5a), (5b) or (8) are each prepared by initially charging the phosphorus compound together with one or more basic ion exchange resins and subsequently metering in the compound having an OH group.

Claim 6 (Original): The process of claim 4, wherein asymmetric diphosphorus compounds are prepared by initially charging the compound having OH groups together with one or more basic ion exchange resins and subsequently metering in the phosphorus compound.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction of in each case a compound that has at least one phosphorus-halogen bond with a compound having at least one hydroxyl group is one reaction step.

Claim 8 (Original): The process of claim 7, wherein, when a plurality of reaction steps is carried out, they may be carried out continuously or batchwise.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 7, wherein, when a plurality of reaction steps is carried out, the same or different ion exchangers are used in the reaction steps.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 7, wherein, when a plurality of reaction steps is carried out, the same or different temperatures are set in the reaction steps.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, which is carried out in the presence of one or more solvents that are selected from the group of benzene, chlorobenzene, toluene, xylenes, pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methyl tert-butyl ether, anisole, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane, 1,3-dioxolane, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, tert-butyl acetate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, 1,2-butylene carbonate, acetone, 2-butanone, 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, benzonitrile, propionitrile, acetonitrile, lactones, N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-alkylmorpholines and sulfolane.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, which is carried out in the presence of polymeric, weakly basic ion exchange resins based on styrene-divinylbenzene copolymers that bear N,N-dialkylamine groups.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the ion exchanger is used in the form of particles having an average particle size of from 10 μm to 2 mm or in the form of a fixed package.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the ion exchanger is dried before use in the process.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, which is carried out in the presence of a proton transerrer.

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one basic ion exchange resin is present such that the ratio of moles of acid resulting from the release in moles to moles of free base released by the ion exchange resin is from 1:1 to 3:1.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one basic ion exchange resin is present such that the ratio of moles of acid resulting from the release in moles to moles of free base released by the ion exchange resin is from 1:1 to 2:1.